1	2	3	4	5	6
11	Tripura	2080	338	2170	488
12	Uttar Pradesh	300	200	2100	725
13	West Bengal	113500	86515	122200	97021
14	A & N Islands	90	15	..	..
15	Arunachal Pradesh.	460	49	680	107
16	Chandigarh	..	..	20	..
17	Delhi	12900	9254	11080	7592
18	Mizoram	2480	2289	2750	1379

Rise in the prices of essential commodities

28. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to control the price rise in essential commodities and to ensure effective public distribution system; and

(b) whether Government propose to bring any amendment in the Essential Commodities Act in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) Government has taken a number of steps to check rise in prices of essential commodities. The main thrust of Government's policy has been to increase production of various essential commodities, particularly those which are in short supply. Other measures include import of some essential commodities to augment domestic supply, banning or regulating export of some essential commodities whose supply is not adequate for domestic consumption. Minister of Food & Civil Supplies has written several letters in the last few months to Cheif Ministers and Lt. Governors of States Union Territories urging them to effectively monitor prices and availability of essential commodities, strengthen and improve the working of Public Distribution System. Since August, 1987 as per information received in the Department of Civil Supplies more than 2900 additional Fair Price Shops have been opened and more than 200 mobile vans have been pressed into operation in States|U.Ts. The State Governments have been advised to set up Advisory|Vigilance Committees at State level, district, subdivisional|Taluka levels for overseeing the functioning of Public Distribution System. To check hoarding and blackmarketing, the States have been urged to strictly enforce the various provisions of Essential Commodities Act and similar legislations. According to figures available, since August, 1987 21,809 raids have been conducted, 987 persons arrested, 1100 prosecutions launched and goods valued at Rs. 8.88 crores seized in various States and U.Ts. Raids have also been conducted to curb illegal forward trading in oilseeds and edible oils. Meetings have been held with representatives of trade and industry requesting them to take voluntary steps for containment of the prices. As a result of discussions with representatives of trade and industry, they have voluntarily reduced|contained the price of vanaspati, soaps, maida, tea, etc. Producers of butter have agreed for augmenting their supplies and maintaining the price line.

(b) No, Sir.